

continues to serve in this role. During his ongoing tenure, Judge Pianka has implemented the Selective Intervention Program and Warrant Capias Program. He has also developed the Landlord Seminar Workshop, Housing Code Enforcement Advocates Forum and educational materials for the public on topics concerning home maintenance, the law and the navigation of Housing Court.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Honorable Judge Raymond Pianka as he is recognized at the Cleveland Tenants Organization's Masquerade Benefit for his service and work to sustain Cleveland's neighborhoods.

HONORING JOSEPH GEREMIA AS  
HE IS HONORED BY THE CON-  
NECTICUT GREENHOUSE GROW-  
ERS ASSOCIATION

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 24, 2011*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association as they pay tribute to one of their outstanding members and my good friend, Joe Geremia. Joe's extraordinary contributions to Connecticut's agriculture industry have gone a long way in ensuring that the needs of greenhouse growers are not only heard but acted upon. In fact, just last year, Joe was recognized for his incredible work by the State of Connecticut when he was named the 2010 Outstanding Young Farmer.

With an estimated three hundred commercial greenhouse businesses, housing eight million square feet of production space, greenhouse production is a critical piece of Connecticut's agriculture industry. Today, the production of flowers and plants is the biggest segment of Connecticut agriculture, accounting for nearly three-fourths of all crop agriculture. This makes Connecticut second in the Nation in terms of the proportion of ornamental horticulture to crop agriculture.

Agriculture is not only Joe's occupation, it is in his blood. Coming to America just after the turn of the century, Joe's grandfather raised vegetables on the family's sixteen-acre farm. His passion for growing was passed on to his children and eventually on to Joe who got started in the business working with his father. In the beginning, Joe's father had just half an acre in greenhouse production. Just after leaving high school, Joe jumped into the wholesale greenhouse business with both feet—and he has never looked back.

What is so wonderful about Joe is that he is always looking to learn, to expand his knowledge and apply all of that to his business. He traveled to the Netherlands to learn about the latest greenhouse, agriculture, and distribution technology as well as Ontario to observe their vegetable production research and learning systems. He brought the best of these lessons back to his own business and shared them with his fellow greenhouse growers. His dedication to finding solutions to agriculture's challenges is probably best evidenced in the research greenhouse that he built at Connecticut's Agriculture Experiment Station's Lockwood Farm where, in partner-

ship with the Station and the University of Connecticut, Joe and scientists are investigating methods of eliminating wastewater and reducing fertilizer in run-off—a win-win by providing the industry with more efficient and cost-effective irrigation methods while also protecting the environment which they depend on for success.

One of the issues that Joe has devoted much of his time to is energy efficiency and it is through these efforts that I have gotten to know Joe so well. Over the last few years, he has retrofitted his greenhouse to be heated with biomass boilers instead of traditional oil. Utilizing this technology, Joe has not only created new business choices for himself, but has created new business for local arborists and landscapers whose wood waste products would otherwise be left to decay. I have been so impressed with his work that I have taken every opportunity to get our federal officials, like USDA Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan, out to see his operation. He is leading the way for Connecticut's agricultural future.

I am proud to stand today to join the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association as well as his wife, Dawn; their children, Madeline, Luke, and Liam; and the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to recognize the outstanding efforts of our friend, Joe Geremia. Congratulations Joe—with your enthusiasm, commitment and energy, there is nothing that you will not accomplish.

IN HONOR OF MR. RICHARD  
CORDRAY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 24, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Richard Cordray, the former Attorney General of Ohio who is being recognized and is delivering the Keynote Speech at the Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People's (ESOP) Annual Gala.

Mr. Cordray was born on May 3, 1959 in Grove City, Ohio. He attended Grove City High School and graduated as the co-valedictorian of his class in 1977. He went on to attend Michigan State University's James Madison College and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in legal and political theory in 1981. During his undergraduate studies, Mr. Cordray interned for former U.S. Senator John Glenn. After completing his BA, he went on to earn his Master of Arts in economics from the University of Oxford and his Juris Doctor from the University of Chicago.

Mr. Cordray began his career as a law clerk for the U.S. Supreme Court and just two years after earning his J.D. was hired by the international law firm of Jones Day in Cleveland, Ohio. He ran and was elected as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives for the 33rd District from January 7, 1991 to December 31, 1992. Following his term in the Ohio State House, Mr. Cordray was appointed as the first Ohio State Solicitor and served in this role from September 1993 to 1994. He was elected to Ohio Democratic Party Central Committee in 1996. Following several years of private practice, Mr. Cordray served as Franklin County Treasurer from December 2002 to

2007. He successfully ran for Ohio State Treasurer in 2006 and held office until 2009 when he became the Ohio State Attorney General. Mr. Cordray's term as Ohio Attorney General ended in January 2011. He has been nominated by President Obama to serve as Director of the United States Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Mr. Cordray currently lives in Grove City, Ohio with his wife of ten years, Peggy. The couple has a set of twins, Danny and Holly.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. Richard Cordray as he is honored by ESOP's Annual Gala on October 20, 2011.

IN HONOR OF MR. WILLIAM "BILL"  
ORTH

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 24, 2011*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Bill Orth's years of tireless public service to Pennsauken Township, New Jersey. A beloved former Mayor and member of the Township Committee from 1981 to 2011, Mr. Orth has gone above and beyond in his dedication and commitment to his community.

Mr. Orth was determined to use his position to invigorate the township, spearheading a successful downtown revitalization campaign. He was instrumental in dedicating a monument and park to Pennsauken's veterans, and erecting a memorial sculpture in honor of the victims and heroes of 9/11. He has represented the township of Pennsauken and the state of New Jersey with enthusiasm and care, and Pennsauken and this Congress are proud to recognize him for the work he has done.

Mr. Orth also made it a priority to bring performers from far and wide to Pennsauken, and his devotion to widening the musical experiences of his community will be remembered for generations to come. His talent and loyalty to Pennsauken's musical theater community made Pennsauken's productions large-scale events.

In addition, Bill began the charitable organization, Pennsauken Neighbors Helping Neighbors, which gives small grants to community members in need to better their lives in times of financial difficulty. The charity's goal is simple: help Pennsauken residents help each other. This selflessness and desire to help others are perfectly representative of Bill Orth's attitude towards life.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Orth's endless dedication to Pennsauken Township should not go unrecognized. I join the township and all of South Jersey in paying tribute to this exceptional man.

IN HONOR OF THE 95TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF THE CALL & POST

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 24, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Cleveland's Call & Post newspaper

which is celebrating its 95th anniversary on November 3, 2011.

The Call & Post was established in 1928 when the Cleveland Call and the Cleveland Post merged. The Cleveland Call and Cleveland Post were newspapers that had been independently serving Cleveland's African American community since 1920. The Call & Post was a struggling publication the first several years it was in circulation. However, in 1932, when Baltimore's William Otis Walker came to manage the paper, the Call & Post began to grow and prosper. The Call & Post increased from four pages to twelve and its circulation more than tripled. Mr. Walker partnered with P-W Publishing Co. and ran the paper until the early 1980s. Under Mr. Walker's leadership, the Call & Post became one of the best African American newspapers in the country. In 1959, the Call & Post extended its circulation and began running editions for the cities of Columbus and Cincinnati as well as a state-wide edition.

Don King bought the Call & Post in 1998 and remains the paper's owner and publisher. The publication still runs a statewide edition. The weekly edition of the Call & Post features local news in Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati and includes the Call & Post 2nd edition, an arts and entertainment tabloid. The paper has received recognition from the National Newspaper Publishers Association and the Press Club of Cleveland.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the 95th anniversary of one of the nation's most prominent African American newspapers, the Call & Post.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 24, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,939,232,547,985.08.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$4,300,806,801,691.28 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

#### IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF MR. JOHN KILEY

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 24, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of Mr. John Kiley, the co-director of the Freedom House, which was the precursor to Cleveland's Ed Keating Center.

John was dedicated to serving the country and the public starting at a young age. He served with the U.S. Air Force for twenty years, including three tours in Vietnam, before retiring. He was a member of the 1041st Security Police Squadron at Hawaii's Schofield Barracks. Later, John worked as a counselor

at Cleveland's Stella Marris and the Ed Keating Center. He was also the co-director of Cleveland's Freedom House.

The Ed Keating Center was founded in 1998 by Jack Mulhall and Phyllis Eisele-Curran, who had previously founded Freedom House in 1991. It is a non-profit organization and sober living facility for those addicted to drugs and alcohol that serves adults regardless of their financial well-being. The Ed Keating Center offers a six month in-house rehab program, a three-quarter house program and a work release program for its patients.

I offer my condolences to John's wife Susan; daughters Kerry, Shannon (deceased), Angela and Merry; siblings, Susan and Terry; and all of his nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. John Kiley. His legacy will live on through the work of Cleveland's Ed Keating Center.

#### LEO P. VERGNETTI

#### HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 24, 2011*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Leo P. Vergnetti, the 2011 honoree at the American Cancer Society Ball of Hope in Scranton, Pennsylvania, on October 28, 2011. Mr. Vergnetti has been a dedicated supporter of the American Cancer Society for decades. This is a charity that has been very close to his heart since his beloved wife, Carol, passed away due to cancer in 1984. Mr. Vergnetti turned this tragic event in his life into a reason to champion cancer research. His efforts have raised significant funds to support cancer services in his home region of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Vergnetti's work with children has enabled many suffering with cancer to attend Camp Can-Do. This is a camp for children who are receiving cancer treatment. The ability to attend this camp and interact with other children going through the same trials and tribulations is empowering. Mr. Vergnetti has raised money to give several children this life-affirming experience and escape the stress of the disease that they are fighting.

Not only is Mr. Vergnetti a former chairman of the American Cancer Society's Board of Ambassadors, but he is also the founder. At a time when 1.4 million new cancer cases are expected in this country during the next year, having a group of community leaders gathering ideas for advancing the ACS's mission is pivotal.

As a philanthropist, Mr. Vergnetti has been a pivotal part of securing funding for many other charities including the Wyoming Children's Association, the Scranton Relay for Life Committee, and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that the American Cancer Society honors a man who has donated so much of his time and effort to such a worthy cause. I am certain that his hard work and dedication will not end here. Fighting for those enduring cancer and furthering research to help find a cure are close to Leo Vergnetti's heart, and it is my pleasure to acknowledge all of his efforts here today.

160TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 24, 2011*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 160th anniversary of the University of the District of Columbia, the only public institution of higher education in our nation's capital.

The University of the District of Columbia, then known as the Colored Girls School, was founded by Myrtilla Miner on December 4, 1851. Over the next 160 years, the single-room schoolhouse flourished into an exceptional institution offering academic programs to generations of students. The University, as we know it today, was formally established by a 1974 Act of Congress, and became a land-grant institution in 1862. Today, it is the only completely urban land-grant institution in the country.

The University serves over 5,300 students and offers more than eighty undergraduate and graduate programs across six colleges. The University's new community college, established under the leadership of University President Dr. Allen Sessoms, is thriving and provides its students with associate, certificate, and workforce development programs in high-demand fields.

Continuing its legacy of excellence in teacher education, which began with the Miner and Wilson Normal Schools more than a hundred years ago, the University recently founded the National Center for Urban Education, which will prepare teachers for the unique demands of our nation's urban schools.

Fulfilling its land-grant mission, the University is pursuing an aggressive research agenda in dozens of areas, including renewable energy, urban sustainability, cancer biology, applied statistics, and computer science.

The David A. Clarke School of Law, which joined the University in 1996, is the second most diverse law school in the country. Its unique emphasis on clinical education led Attorney General Eric Holder to declare its clinical programs a model for other law schools. This year, law students will provide over 85,000 hours of pro bono legal assistance to our community.

To support its recent growth, the University is undergoing a massive physical transformation, with three major satellite campuses and a community college that opened in the past two years, upgrades to the main Van Ness campus, and a new state-of-the-art student center, which we will soon break ground on.

Although the University was born out of the humble beginnings of a one-room school house, it has been dedicated to excellence in education and opportunities for all of its 160-year history. I am proud of the University and ask the House to join me in commending the University community on its accomplishments over the last 160 years.